

# OYSTER GROWERS TAKE ISSUE WITH EX-GOVERNOR ON QUESTION OF TAXATION

(Continued From First Page.)  
By stating the simple fact that the grounds in Rhode Island produce a revenue to the growers ten times as great as those in Connecticut.

"The grounds of Guilford, Clinton and Madison which the Governor says are taxed at \$1 per acre are worth no more. The tracts mentioned are kept out of cultivation because they cannot be cultivated until thousands of dollars have been expended on them. Ground there has been sold by private individuals for 75 cents per acre. Before oysters can be raised on them they must be covered with a layer of gravel or sand at an enormous expense. Should there be extensive government dredging operations in the vicinity it might be possible to bring the bottom to condition where planting would be possible.

"Rhode Island operates her oyster beds on a different system. No sound is set in Rhode Island. The deep water grounds are leased for \$5 per acre for a term of years and the shallower beds at \$10. These leases run for a term of years and a provision is made for a renewal of the lease. The growers who have expended large sums on the grounds. And even then the Rhode Island grounds are cheaper to operate than those in Connecticut. The revenues received by the growers from the Rhode Island beds are absolutely necessary to maintain the oyster business in Connecticut. They are fattening grounds. Practically no oysters are produced in Connecticut which are fit for the market.

"Connecticut oyster growers were obliged to seek fattening grounds or go out of business. They went to Rhode Island and to New York for grounds which were not subject to the green color which attacked all oysters in Connecticut waters. The Connecticut beds are now only seed beds and the products are all taken to other waters for development before they can be marketed. The northern oyster cannot compete in price with those from the Chesapeake Bay. If it were a matter of price Baltimore would have a monopoly of the oyster business. The northern oyster is better in quality and therefore brings a higher price. The comparison between the Rhode Island oyster grounds and those of Connecticut can be accurately represented in the case of the farms of the State.

"It would be just as reasonable to tax the rocky hill tops of the northern end of the State at the same rate as the fertile tobacco lands in the valleys. The first produces only a small revenue while the latter brings in large returns as the result of better natural conditions and the expenditure of much money and labor upon them. Connecticut growers developed the oyster industry in the Narragansett Bay. Before these fattening grounds were developed the grounds in Connecticut were confined to about three and one-half months of the year in which returns were received. The remainder of the year was expended in cultivating the grounds and preparing them for the next year. The crop was a matter of speculation.

"No business in the country today is as much of a lottery as the oyster business. There is absolutely no assurance of profit in any year. The expenses are enormous. Steamers, watch boats and a large force of men are required. It is casting bread upon the waters and hoping for a return which often fails. When the Connecticut companies developed the Rhode Island beds they did not establish plants there. They simply took their steamers and men and put in the remainder of the year after the work in Connecticut was done in taking oysters from the Rhode Island beds and marketing them.

"The Rhode Island grounds have the advantage in the fact which is well known to every oysterman but perhaps not to Governor Woodruff that an oyster will develop as much growth in the Narragansett Bay in one year as it will in this State in three years. This should in itself make the Rhode Island beds three times as valuable as those in Connecticut. It is hardly a tenable supposition that Connecticut growers would go to Rhode Island and pay \$5 to \$10 an acre for ground, go to the immense expense of transporting millions of bushels of oysters and if there was no profit in it. It is the Rhode Island beds which make the profits for the oyster grower. It makes it possible for him to get a revenue all the year round.

"To go back to the grounds of Guilford which the Governor says are kept out of cultivation by others by the ties of the big growers, H. C. Rowe of New Haven experimented with these beds at a large expense and after giving them a fair trial abandoned them as profitless. The bottom is of such a character that it would be necessary to practically make new ground before oysters grow on it.

"Another feature of the oyster business is not generally understood. Property on the lands is protected by the forces of the law. To give the property which the Governor seeks to tax more heavily, the same protection the oysterman is obliged to maintain watch boats and lights and is manned by crews at a large expense. It would be impossible to reap any benefit of the immense amount of labor expended on the grounds if their protection was left to the regular officers of the law.

"Unlike the Rhode Island grounds those in Connecticut are coarser and more widely extended. The product is much smaller, develops slower and is practically worthless if not developed in waters where there is more food and fresh water.

"The growers are of the uniform opinion that the business will not bear any higher taxation. They take issue with the statement that as the product is marketed outside of the State a greater tax would not be a hardship on the citizen of this State. An increase in taxation would mean an increase in the price of the commodity which would also mean the destruction of the industry. The fact is that the existence of the Connecticut companies is necessary to turn the raw material, seed oysters, into cash which would otherwise be entirely lost to the community. The same principle applied to the tobacco lands of the State would meet with instant and permanent protest. The products of the tobacco farms are to a great extent marketed outside the State, therefore tax the farmers who raise it to the limit of their endurance."

portion of the so-called oyster grounds in the State of Connecticut are not suited for culture in their present state. Oyster ground of the best quality is like every valuable thing, proportionately scarce as to quantity in most localities; but in Rhode Island there appears to be a much larger proportion of the best quality of ground than elsewhere. It is therefore exceptionally valuable. Connecticut is a good producer of the raw material seed oysters and nature in Rhode Island puts on the finishing touches. Any raw material would be valueless unless it could be utilized which Connecticut could not do without transplanting to waters outside the State where nature does the perfecting work. Connecticut cultivators are enabled to take their steamers and crews there to harvest and cultivate, thus keeping an employed oyster revenue territory in this State. Rough diamonds without the lapidary's touch would be valueless the same as other raw materials and in the case of Rhode Island nature is the lapidary who converts our crude oysters into a marketable commodity. Were it not for the beds in Rhode Island elsewhere outside of this State the production of the product would be almost valueless there being an exceedingly small area suitable for producing marketable oysters. Connecticut has not the great bays in which to fatten and mature oysters for market as Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and other coast States have and in which localities the bivalves are produced from the seed to the full grown oyster. In those localities they grow from 100 to 300 per cent. faster and planters are not confined to a seed bed as in Rhode Island. They are annually as are Connecticut planters but are enabled to market their product continually throughout the year. Without these outside grounds the Connecticut planter will not survive and the State would be loser of an important industry which every other oyster producing State is endeavoring to encourage."

Opinion of Mr. Brooks.  
Lewis C. Brooks, the South Norwalk representative of the National Oyster Carrier Company which transports the greater part of the oysters handled in the North and who is in touch with all the oyster producing territory in New England and the Middle States said:

"I also represent the Northport Oyster company. I am confident that the Connecticut growers are taxed at a rate they can bear at present. Connecticut is only a seed bed and produces no oysters fit for market. Competition is growing stronger every year and other States are endeavoring to build up the oyster industry. Every State on the Gulf of Mexico is offering encouragement so that the industry may be established there. In the warmer and shallower waters of the south oysters grow faster but they lack the flavor of the northern product. The north cannot compete in price with the south and nothing should be done which will multiply the difficulties of the Connecticut grower on whom nature has already imposed most unfavorable conditions which have required much study, persistent effort and the expenditure of immense sums of money to conquer. No other business in the State is required to tie up capital in a trap for ten years with a speculative prospect only of receiving a return. I have read the Governor's message and must say that it shows that the executive is highly thoughtful, honest in his convictions, is not acquainted with the conditions on which the oyster industry in this State depends. The growers of this State have built up an industry against great natural obstacles which is the envy of other States and it will be poor policy on the part of its legislators to place any further burdens upon it. The industry brings large sums of money into the State which without it would be entirely lost. Grounds in other States, while they do produce as much growth as those here that are fit to market without moving or other attention while the Connecticut grower has to fight from the time the set comes until the oyster is marketed. The oyster and its winks are enemies which do not trouble growers of other States to the same degree that they do here.

"It is noticeable that the Governor has not mentioned the great natural beds the product of which is now practically wasted. These beds with a small expenditure could be made to produce as much income relatively much larger than that derived by Rhode Island."

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## HILL VS. BRANDEGEE

Manager Roraback of the Hill Forces Still Very Confident.  
Hartford, Jan. 9.—The Republican Senatorial caucus will be held at 2 on Tuesday afternoon. There will be 31 Senators and 205 members of the House for a full roll. There are three members of the House, who are enrolled as Republicans, who were elected on regular Democratic tickets, and it is said that a Republican caucus will not admit such members.

The backers of Mr. Hill maintain their full confidence and say that Mr. Hill will be re-elected. They insist that new recruits are coming over to them every day.

When the statement of Mr. Kenealy was shown to J. Henry Roraback, who has charge of Mr. Hill's campaign, he said that, while he was not publishing figures, he would say that his canvass differed very materially with that of Mr. Kenealy and he was satisfied with it. He said he felt certain that Mr. Hill had votes enough to nominate him. He said that, if Mr. Kenealy's canvass of other parts of the State was no nearer right than it is with regard to Fairfield county, his confidence was still further strengthened.

MIDSHIPMEN PASS TESTS.  
Washington, Jan. 9.—Final reports show that forty-five midshipmen of the class of 1907 have successfully passed the graduation tests at sea after a two years' cruise. Three Connecticut boys are included in the list, Fred P. Lilley, son of the Governor, being thirty-fourth on the list; Louis F. Thibault of Winsted, twenty-sixth, and Richard B. Cassidy of Norwich, forty-fifth.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Christ Episcopal church, Courtland street, Rev. E. J. Craft, rector—Holy communion, 8 a. m.; morning prayer, 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school, 12:15 p. m.; evening prayer, 7:30 p. m.

In the First Methodist Episcopal church, Fairfield avenue and Broad street, the pastor, George M. Brown will speak morning and evening. At 10:30 the subject will be "The Fallow Ground." Sunday school "The meek and lowly Jesus." The Epworth League service will be held at 6:30. At 7:30 a few minutes will be spent with familiar hymns and the pastor will speak upon the question: "Is It Harder to Do Right Than to Do Wrong?"

Park Street Congregational church, corner Barnum avenue and Park street, Gerard H. Beard, minister. Public worship with sermon at 10:30. Subject: "Tests of Genuineness." Sunday school at 12:15. Men's Seminar at the same hour. "Social Problems in the Light of the Teachings of Jesus." In the evening, at 7:30, a special address service. Sermon: "Who Cares for Prayer?" Gospel hymns on the Prayer theme will be sung in solo and quartet and by the congregation.

West End Congregational church, Colorado avenue, between Fairfield avenue and State street, W. Irving Maurer, minister. Subject for sermon to-morrow morning at 1:30, "The Ethics and the Pulpit." Sunday school at noon. Christian Endeavor meeting at 6:30 p. m. Evening service at 7:30. Subject: "The Problem of Modern Civilization." Annual address for the church next Wednesday evening.

King's Highway Congregational church, Spring St., near Noble Ave., P. E. Mathias, pastor. Services: Preaching, 10:45; Sunday school, 12:15; Christian Endeavor, 7:30; preaching, 7:30. Morning subject, "Living For a Great Hope." Evening subject, "What Christ Offers." During the morning service there will be an address for boys and girls on, "The Boy Who Helped Jesus."

St. John's church, corner Fairfield and Park avenues, Rev. Wm. H. Lewis, D.D., rector. Holy Communion, 8 a. m. Morning service, 10:30 a. m. Men's Bible class, 9 a. m. Sunday school and Women's Bible class, 12 m. Evening prayer, 5 p. m. Regular meeting on Sunday, 10:30 a. m. Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Tuesday, 8 p. m.

People's Presbyterian church, Lincoln Hall, 62 Cannon St., Rev. H. A. Davenport, minister. Divine worship, 10:30 a. m. Sermon, theme, "Honor to Whom Honor." Sunday school, 12:15. Ladies and gentlemen meet, 12 to 12:30. Christian Endeavor meetings, with reports, 4 and 5 p. m. Personal Workers, 6:30. Prayer meeting, 7:30. Wednesday preparatory service, 7:30 room 20, Taylor Building. All are welcomed.

First Presbyterian church, State street, corner Myrtle avenue, Rev. John MacLaren, Richardson, pastor. Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Topics: Morning, "Ideals." Evening, "Caesar's Friend." Sunday school at 12:15.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 871 Lafayette street. Service at 11 a. m. Subject, "Sacrament." Sunday school, 12:15. Wednesday evening testimonial meeting at 8 o'clock. Reading room open every week day, morning from 10 to 1, and every afternoon including Sunday, from 3 to 5. Also open Friday evening. All are welcome to both, the services, and to the privileges of the reading room.

Washington Park Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Charles Elmore, pastor. Sunday morning service at 10:30, with sermon by the pastor on "How to Work for God." Special revival service, with large chorus choir at 7:30 p. m. with sermon by the pastor, subject, "Obedience to the Heavenly Vision." Public ordinally invited to attend. Other services, class meeting at 9 o'clock, Brotherhood at 10, Sunday school at 12:15. Epworth League at 6:30. A mass meeting for men will be held in the Auditorium at 7:30. Music will be furnished by men's chorus; Mr. Frederick Brown, cornetist; Mr. Bruce Conger, cellist, and Mr. George C. Murphy, pianist. A brief address will be delivered by Mr. Barto.

## PASTOR AHRENS PLANS SERIES OF SERVICES

Some months ago the Rev. C. F. W. Ahrens of Immanuel Baptist church, together with the choir of the church, rendered a series of services which proved very interesting and helpful and several urgent requests have been made to arrange a similar series in the near future.

The services referred to are the ones which were based upon the old, but ever religiously popular hymns, "Rock of Ages," "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Jesus Lover of My Soul," the choir rendering the hymns by various composers, and the pastor giving a short talk, not merely on the origin and history of the respective hymns, but also on the important thoughts suggested by them.

The series now planned will embrace the hymns "One Sweetly Solemn Thought," "Lead Kindly Light," "The Ninety and Nine," "Jesus Savior Pilot Me," and "Abide With Me." The musical selections have been carefully chosen and will consist of quartettes, duets, and solos. The choir will spare no pains in preparation, for they feel that the rendition of the above master poems and the compositions by master musicians should carry out the spirit of the great masters.

The general order of arrangement will be published next week, together with the program of the first service which will occur on Sunday evening, Jan. 17th.

## POINTS OF INTEREST.

Great Clearance Sale  
of fur muffs, fur scarfs and fur sets at greatly reduced prices at E. H. Dillon & Co., 1105 Main street.

Trade at The Woman's Drug Store this year and get the benefit of good service, best goods and right prices. Send here for your drugs when ill, we carry the best. Come here when well for the many health necessities that we carry. Our famous Grippe Capsules will cure your cold in 48 hours or your 25c back. Our Chappa, 25c, will cure your skin of chaps, roughness, and redness. Our Gum and Apple Hair Tonic, 50c, will make the hair grow, cures dandruff and stops it from falling. To women we say our Emmenagogue Mixture, \$1.75, will regulate delayed periods due to cold, ill-health, or other unnatural causes. Rubber goods our specialty; syringes of all kinds and all prices, hot water bottles and sick-room supplies of every description. The Woman's Drug Store, 129 State street, one door below Main street. Tel. 283-4.

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Until six o'clock on the fifteenth the special prices and discounts hold good in all the House Furnishing Departments.

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\$15-00 and worth from \$22.50 to \$25.00.

Coque, Marabout and Ostrich Boas on Sale Monday.

Our complete stock of Marabout, Coque, and Ostrich Stoles and Boas will be placed on sale Monday at 25 per cent. less than original prices.

A rare opportunity to provide one's self with one of these dainty feathered wraps, always so becoming and agreeable to wear.

Monday morning at the Neckwear Section.

Undermuslins.  
What is left in the Samples.

Long Skirts, particularly good value, lace-trimmed, \$1.89  
Short Skirts, including extra sizes, \$1.25  
Drawers, good values, embroidery, 69 cts.  
Corset Covers, a large assortment, 19 cts.  
A second lot, including rare sizes, 40, 42, and 44, 39 cts.

Nightgowns of Masonville muslin, extra size, \$1.49

Attractive Furnishings for the Home.

Now is the appointed time to pick up the minor furnishings, the articles that add much to the comfort and appearance of the home. Magazine Racks, Stools and Tabourets of dark Oak or Mahogany. Cup and Plate Racks, Cellarets and things for the den. Mirrors, odd Chairs, Desks, artistic China and Glass.

A certain Mahogany Low Boy noticed in the sale has the curved Chinese legs and the ball and claw feet noticed in some Chippendale pieces. There are five drawers in this, the central and deeper one with fan carving. The handles are of old brass. \$32.00 in the sale, value \$40.00.

A second Low Boy is of Colonial Mahogany with pie-crust carving round the top. The handles of the drawers are of glass, and there is shell carving on the central drawer. The legs are handsomely carved, the feet are ball and claw. \$44.80 in the sale.

A very handsome Mahogany Consol has a double pedestal which consists of two thick columns with acanthus carving. The short thick claw feet supporting the base are also hand carved. \$30.80 in the sale.

A Rose Jar of English Porcelain in Indian Tree pattern stands a foot high. It is the sort of jar one would expect to find on a Mahogany Table in an old fashioned drawing room, and it would be filled with a delightful pot-pourri. The 20 per cent. applies on this.

An attractive Game Set consists of a platter and a dozen plates. The borders are green and gold, the center occupied by interesting pictures of grouse, woodcock, quail, wild duck, and other game birds. \$33.38, half price.

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